GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2570
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
INDO-RUSSIA TIES
NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have decided to hold further talks on security matters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both the countries have also held talks on progress regarding restructuring of United Nations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b): Indo-Russian relations are characterised by continuity, trust and mutual understanding and based on shared perceptions and mutuality of interests. These have been consolidated into a strategic partnership with the signing of the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation in October 2000, during the State Visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India.

India and the Russian Federation have regular discussions on a wide range of subjects, including security matters. The Declaration on Strategic Partnership envisages regular bilateral political and foreign office consultations on issues of mutual concern; further intensification of their efforts aimed at strengthening international peace and security; as also joint initiatives on key international and regional issues. Foreign Office Consultations also include those on strategic stability.

Following the visit of the President of the Russian Federation, the first meeting of the Indo-Russian Joint Working Group on Afghanistan was held in New Delhi on November 20-21, 2000.In line with the Protocol on Cooperation between the National Security Council of India and the Security Council of the Russian Federation, the first meeting of the Joint Coordination Group on International and Regional Security was held in Moscow from February 19-21, 2001.

(c) & (d) India and the Russian Federation have agreed for closer cooperation at the United Nations.The subject of UN reforms, including its restructuring, has been among the topics regularly discussed between India and the Russian Federation.In the Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit of the President of the Russian Federation in October 2000, both sides agreed on the advisability to expand the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to make it more representative and increase its effectiveness. Russia has publicly expressed its unconditional support for India`s candidature for permanent membership of an expanded UNSC.